

January 5, 2000

Michael P. Kenny
Executive Officer
Air Resources Board
P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, California 95812

Dear Mr. Kenny:

This letter is to inform you of action taken by the Scientific Review Panel on Toxic Air Contaminants regarding methyl-tertiary butyl ether (MTBE).

On August 4, 1999 you asked the Panel to review documentation on the carcinogenic potency of MTBE which had been prepared by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA). In preparing its report, OEHHA used its March 1999 report on MTBE in drinking water written for their Public Health Goals program. The current report, which estimates cancer risks from exposure to MTBE by inhalation, was also made available for a 30-day public comment period.

During the Panel's meetings on October 6 and November 17, 1999, we considered the report, including documentation from the public health goals report and OEHHA's responses to comments received from the public. By law, the Panel must review such a report, together with the scientific data on which the report is based, and determine whether or not the report is based on sound science. At the November meeting the Panel unanimously affirmed its conclusion that the OEHHA document titled "Attachment 1, Health Effects of Exposure to Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE)", is based on sound, scientific knowledge, methods, and practices.

The Panel welcomes any opportunity to be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

S/

John R. Froines, Ph.D.
Chairman
Scientific Review Panel

cc: Scientific Review Panel members
Joan E. Denton, Ph.D., Director, OEHHA
Jim Behrmann, ARB